(b) if so, by when this construction work would be started and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Finance Minister announced 1,000 km. of expressway along the coiridors of Vadodara-Mumbai (400 km.) and six others from which the balance 600 km. were to be selected. Delhi-Jaipur was one such corridor. Further decision for Delhi-Jaipur expressway is yet to be taken.

However, Delhi-Jaipur section has been approved for six laning and the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) concession for the project has been awarded in February, 2008 under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-V.

Proposals from Kerala

2268. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending proposals received from the State Government of Kerala for construction of by-passes in the State; and

(b) the status of each proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) There is no proposal pending in the Ministry regarding construction of bypass in the State of Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

Road to New Mangalore Port Trust

2269. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new road connectivity to the extent of 37.47 kilometres to the New Mangalore Port Trust was proposed and the contract had been awarded to IRCON on 16th June, 2005 with targeted date for completion as 15th December, 2007 at an estimated cost of Rs. 168.21 crores;

(b) whether there is no sign of the work being completed in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures that are contemplated to ensure expeditious implementation of the project with minimum time and cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The target date of completion was 15th December, 2007. However, due to delay in completion of land acquisition and other pre-construction activities, the work has been delayed.

(d) The measures taken for ensuring expeditious implementation of this project include close monitoring of the project by holding monthly and quarterly review meetings, at various levels, proposed signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NHAI and

M/s IRCON for ensuring targets committed by M/s IRCON etc. The work is now expected to be completed by March 2009.

Inland Water Transport

2270. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme for promoting Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to open the extant National Waterway fully for transportation; and

(d) if so, by when it would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has already declared three rivers/canal system, as National Waterways namely (i) the Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia (1620km.) (ii) the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km.) and (iii) the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram along with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km.). Basic infrastructural facilities for shipping and navigation namely navigational channel, navigational aids, and terminals are being provided on these National Waterways.

. Further, following three rivers/canal systems are in the process of declaration as National Waterways.

(i) Kakinada-Puducherry Canals along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km.).

(ii) East Coast Canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi Delta (623 km.).

(iii) River Barak (121 Km.).

(c) and (d) An action plan has been drawn up to make the 3 existing National Waterways fully functional by March 2010, subject to availability of funds.

Inland Water Transport in Kerala

2271. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated schemes to augment Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes;

(c) whethgr Government received projects for the development of Inland Water Transport in the State of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether necessary approval of these projects have been granted; and

(f) the details of the funds released, if any, to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has already declared three rivers/canal systems as